

- ☑ Children's words support troops (back page)
- ☑ Bowling Mania, every Monday at the Westover Bowling Center, 6 to 9 p.m. \$1 per game, \$1 shoe rental
- ☑ Visit us at www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

Hours of operation

Flyers Inn

Lodging desk 24/7
Commercial 413-593-5421
DSN: 589-2700/base Ext. 2700

Chapel Center

Chaplain available 24/7
Pager: 413-785-3195, base Ext. 3031

Fitness Center

Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Saturday (non-UTA), 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sunday (non-UTA), closed
UTA Saturdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
UTA Sundays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bowling Center

Monday-Friday lunch and bowling,
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Westover Consolidated Club

Breakfast: 6-8 a.m. until Thursday
lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
dinner, 5-8 p.m.

Westover Dining Facility

Breakfast, daily, 5-8 a.m.,
\$1.60 for those on per diem,
UTA status - free
Midnight meals, 11 p.m.-1 a.m.
boxed meals provided daily

Family Support Center

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday of A UTA,
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Saturday of B UTA, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
closed Sunday of B UTA

Legal Office

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Base Exchange

Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Shoppette

Monday-Saturday 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Barber Shop (next to BX)

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
closed Sundays

Daily Base Shuttle

Every 15 minutes at meal times to the
club, dining facility, Hangar Avenue,
supply, and bowling center.

Aerial porters move Guard squadron

Article by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Photos by MSgt. W.C. Pope

A joint operation between Westover's two aerial port squadrons saw to more than 700,000 pounds of communication equipment from a local Air National Guard unit shipped overseas from Westover.

Reservists from the 42nd and 58th Aerial Port Squadrons joined forces to move the equipment of the 103rd Air Control Squadron from Westover to a Southwest Asia location.

In all, it took nine C-17 Globemaster III airlifters to deploy the equipment from Westover.

One of the unit's 250 members awaited the arrival of one of the C-17s while he ate ice cream in the passenger terminal.

"This is excellent ice cream," said SSgt. Kevin Townley. "The USO ladies that work in here are the best."

The 103rd ACS, based in Orange, Conn., is a geographically separated unit that falls under the A-10 equipped 103rd Fighter Group assigned at Bradley IAP in nearby Windsor Locks, Conn. Pilots and support members of the A-10 flying squadron were earlier deployed to a Southwest Asia air base.

Townley said the communication's squadron's is similar to that of the crew of an E-3A AWACS - control of military fighters. The major difference is that the unit controls



TSgt. James Barnes, 58th APS, assembles lumber to serve as buffer material for Connecticut Air National Guard communications equipment onboard a C-17.

the fighters with equipment on the ground.

Their mission includes utilizing satellite photography, monitoring the skies with radar and operating long-range communications equipment.

Townley, a satellite communications technician, did not know how long the unit might be assigned overseas. Recently married, he was told to plan for at least a year to be deployed. Contrary to what people thought, the 103rd ACS was called up for the War on Terror, not Operation Iraqi Freedom. "I see this as an opportunity to do a real world mission," the 7-year veteran said. "It's what I have been training for all these years."

Lt. Col. James Carey, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron commander, coordinated the airlift of the 103rd from Westover with the Guard, 22nd Air Force and the airlift control center at AMC headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill.

The aerial port commander described the operation as another successful response to a "can you?" query.

More than 60 pieces of equipment was moved to Westover from Connecticut. Most of the equipment was arranged in rows in a long-term parking lot near the medical facility on Walker Avenue.



Satellite communications equipment is rolled on the back of one of nine C-17s which were loaded with Connecticut Air National Guard equipment.

Words of children show support for troops who protect their world

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Today, everyone in uniform is a hero to children. That's especially true for our neighbors who have been showing their appreciation with gifts and notes from the beginning of the surge.

The youngsters of Valley Christian School, North Hampton recently collected toiletries and put together "care packages" for the troops in the passenger terminal. People going overseas were able to take with them packages of candy, lip balm, pens, shaving cream, bottled water and other gifts thanks to the generosity of the children.

From Heritage Baptist Church, Springfield, came a cardboard box of letters from children who are immensely grateful for what the troops are doing for them.

"I want to thank you for how you are protecting our world," wrote Leah. From Jessica came a meticulously penned note that said, "Thank you for protecting me. I'm praying for you."

Wrote Rebecca: "Do you have a family waiting for you at home? I'm glad you are saving our country."

The notes are simple sentiments from children, but they are a boost for troops awaiting the call to board aircraft to take them overseas.

"I know they were reading them. They were sitting here going through the whole pile," said Marilyn Spofford of the USO.

High school students from Chicopee High School, Chicopee Vocational Tech and Chicopee Comprehensive made a 12-minute video at the Telecommunications Center of Chicopee Public Schools featuring brief expressions of support.

"Thanks for helping bring world peace closer," one student said. Other messages from the Chicopee students include: "Come home safe," "Semper Paratus," "Thank you for defending our country."

A group of students recited the Pledge of

Allegiance. "This is to honor you. We appreciate your sacrifices. You guys are really awesome," they said.

Much of the video features skits done in an adolescent, humorous vein, interspersed with such sentiments as "America rocks." "The troops watch this and they go hysterical. They laugh and say 'play that again'," Marilyn said.

East Longmeadow school children conducted a food drive of non-perishable foods which they donated to the USO Food Pantry in Building 1100 for military families which need help.

Brownie Girl Scout Troop 4616 of Naugatuck, Conn. assembled Easter packages of toiletries, letters, cookies and small games for troops in the passenger terminal.

"This was their way of thanking the guys and no sooner did they come in that they guys were taking them. Marines were diverted here from Cherry Point and they were very grateful for the gifts," Marilyn said.

As important as the gifts were the sentiments expressed by the children.

"Dear Soldier," wrote Julianne. "Thank you for protecting our country. You are very brave. I hope you come home safe. Do you have a cat or dog or a hamster? Because I have them. From your friend."

College courses available on base

Nichols College of Dudley is offering accelerated associate's, bachelor's and master's degree courses in business administration at the Base Hangar on Thursdays. Classes are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m.

Activated reservists and Guard members can receive full tuition assistance.

To learn more, call Nichols College at 1-800-580-1776 or send an e-mail to military@nichols.edu.

Express-ions

Softball team pitches for members

The Westover Women's Softball team is seeking interested females who would like to join the team that will be playing in the Chicopee women's slow pitch softball league. Last year's season – the first for the Westover team in the league – saw the women's team take home the first place trophy!

For more information, call CMSgt. Tammy Vezina at Ext. 3428.

S.A.R.T. Training

There will be a Search and Recovery Training Exercise at the Base Fitness Center on Tuesday, April 15. Team volunteers are needed. For more information contact Rick Heller at Ext. 3958 or e-mail richard.heller@westover.af.mil.

Passover Seder offered

The Jewish festival of Passover will begin this year on Wednesday, April 16th. Individuals needing information on attending a Seder meal in the home of a member of a local Synagogue may contact the Chapel Center at Ext. 3031 for further information.

Pat Stats

Served since Feb. 2, 2003
3,553 passengers - 1,066 aircraft
13,005,638 pounds of cargo
Info from MSgt. Jim Garrity, 42APS

Meals

5,625 hot meals served
Box lunches: 4,145
Info from TSgt. David Beauregard, 439SVS

Fuel since Feb. 1

6,162,180 gallons of JP-8
info from Jim Maloney, fuels

PATRIOT
express

Contact us:

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